



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NITRO UPDATE:
**RICHMOND MAN INDICTED FOR ILLEGAL
POSSESSION OF METH INGREDIENT, FIREARMS**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Richmond, Mo., man was indicted by a federal grand jury today for illegally possessing a methamphetamine ingredient and firearms. Today's indictment, Graves said, is the result of work completed by NITRO (the Northwest Missouri Interagency Team Response Operation).

Leonard Wayne Coggins, 42, of Richmond, Mo., was charged in a two-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Coggins** intentionally possessed pseudoephedrine on Sept. 13, 2004, knowing that it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Coggins** was an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of five firearms on Sept. 13, 2004. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any addict or unlawful user of a controlled substance to possess any firearm or ammunition. The federal indictment alleges that **Coggins** was an unlawful user of methamphetamine and marijuana when he possessed a Marlin .22-caliber semi-automatic rifle, a Sears, Roebuck and Company 20-gauge shotgun, a Remington .22-caliber semi-automatic rifle, a Springfield Armory 7.72 mm semi-automatic rifle and a Charter Arms .22-caliber semi-automatic rifle, along with various ammunition for the firearms.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce Rhoades. The case was investigated by the North Central Drug Task Force, the Ray County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Ray County, Mo., Prosecutor's Office and NITRO, the Northwest Missouri Interagency Team Response Operation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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